



Washington Weekly Brief

December 11, 2008

Volume 4, Number 44

On the Hill

Here's what we're tracking this week for EUCOM.

Bills of Interest:

HR 2003 - Ethiopia Democracy and Accountability Act of 2007

- This bill would encourage and facilitate consolidation of security, human rights, democracy, and economic freedom in Ethiopia. This would include counter terrorism and counter narcotics efforts.
- This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- This bill was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, after passage in the House on October 3.

HR 2228 - Ethiopia Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Bill

- Closely related to HR 2003 this bill would also encourage the development of Ethiopia while also implementing counter terrorism and counter narcotics efforts.
- This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

HR 2446 - Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act of 2007

- This bill provides funding for programs to stabilize Afghanistan and counter the drug trade.
- This bill passed the House and was sent to the Senate, which referred it to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Star Print ordered July 17, 2007.

S 3001 - National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 (House version)

- This bill authorizes military activities and programs and DoD-wide programs for 2009.
- The bill was passed by both House and Senate committees, and sent to the White House for Presidential signature September 27, 2008.
- Became Public Law No 110-417 with President Bush's signature on October 14th.

HR 2638 - Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2009

- This bill authorizes Department of Defense activities and programs for FY 2009.
- The bill was attached to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2008 to continue appropriations for Department of Defense activities and programs that would be covered by the regular fiscal year 2009 appropriations bills.
- Became Public Law No: 110-329 on September 30, 2008.

Hearings of Interest:

There are no hearings of interest scheduled for this week.

INSIDE THE BELTWAY

While not actually in the Beltway, the arrest and charging of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich (D-IL) will have a direct impact on near-term political business in the District, especially in finding a replacement for the now empty Junior Senate Seat recently opened with the election of Barack Obama as president. Early Tuesday morning, Gov. Blagojevich was arrested by federal USG authorities at his home after being charged with several counts of political corruption. Actual charges include conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and a count of solicitation of bribery. According to evidence in the complaint (the details of which were released in a media shark-frenzy news conference Tuesday afternoon), the Governor engaged in a multitude of corrupt practices. Thus far, the evidence in the case seems highly damaging...a plethora of wire-taps and recordings caught the Governor describing in vulgar

detail his intents and actions. Most of the practices allegedly perpetrated by Blagojevich consisted of so-called “pay for play” tactics. Essentially, the Governor sought to give various positions in exchange for personal favors, positions or financial benefits for himself or his wife. In fact, the most high-profile charge was a “play for pay” action. According to federal prosecutors, the Governor supposedly intended to “sell” Pres-elect Obama’s currently-vacant Senate seat to the “highest bidder” in return for a job as an ambassador, Secretary of Health and Human Services or a high-paying position in a labor union. By law in Illinois, it is the Governor’s duty to appoint a successor to a vacant Senate seat. Blagojevich was also recorded claiming that, “If I don’t get what I want and I’m not satisfied with it, then I’ll just take the Senate seat myself.” Other evidence suggested that the Governor intimidated Tribune Co., (who own The Chicago Tribune) and threatened to withhold state assistance funding from the newspaper if they didn’t fire various editors. Sources indicate that the arrest of the Governor is part of an ongoing five-year plus investigation into Illinois political corruption. The Governor’s Chief of Staff, John Harris, is also named in the complaint and faces charges as well. Even though the case involves Pres-elect Obama’s former Senate seat and Chicago politics, prosecutors made it clear that the complaint “makes no allegations about the president-elect whatsoever.” Prosecutors were compelled to take action on the case early given the filling of Pres-elect Obama’s vacant seat. The entire investigation into Illinois corruption is still ongoing but events do not bode well for Blagojevich...calls for resignation and impeachment are already being voiced. Interestingly, this is the second high-profile case of American political corruption to hit the headlines within the last week. Republicans scored a badly needed seat victory in the House when Anh “Joseph” Cao (R-LA) defeated incumbent Representative William Jefferson (D-LA) in a run-off election. Jefferson has been indicted on charges of bribery, money-laundering and misuse of a congressional office.

Coleman-Franken Senate race far from decided... There seems to be no end in sight in the MN Senate race. After incumbent Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) started the recount with a 215-vote lead, Democratic challenger Al Franken was able to whittle that number to 192. But the number means little because of 6,655 challenged ballots not included in the 2.9 million recounted. The campaigns have withdrawn nearly 1,300 of those challenges, with more expected before the canvassing board takes up the matter. Nor do the numbers include Minneapolis’ Ward 3, Precinct 1, where one envelope containing 133 ballots disappeared last week, resulting in a hunt that has proved fruitless. However, no matter what happens when the recount draws to a conclusion - which is expected to last into next week - this matter could be heading to court over disputed absentee ballots by the Franken campaign. While every Senate seat is important in Capitol Hill’s partisan environment, this seat is not as important as it once was. If the GA Senate run-off didn’t re-elect incumbent Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Senate Democrats would have had a chance to hold a filibuster-proof majority of 60 Senate seats if Franken was able to pull out the victory. In today’s political environment, it’s been shown that anything can happen between elections...

In other news, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration just opened a brand new training facility in Quantico, VA. After two years worth of construction, the DEA’s clandestine laboratory and research center is finally open. The center is housed in a 31,600 square foot, \$16.4 million USD building and will serve to educate, instruct and train law enforcement officers and agents in safely and successfully dismantling clandestine methamphetamine and synthetic drug production labs. According to the DEA website, the new facility includes a 2,200 square foot lab that will allow DEA chemists to teach applicants how to synthesize controlled substances and to conduct research on the illicit manufacturing methods and techniques utilized by underground lab operators. The building also contains a two-story 2,000 square foot structure where DEA instructors will be able to conduct raid training in a simulated clandestine laboratory. Even though it is brand new, the fact that a facility of this size is dedicated to deconstruction of synthetic drug labs is noteworthy. Details on international participation in the lab complex have not yet been given; though, it is reasonable to assume that eventually, partner nation forces may be invited to the lab for training and education. Already huge

problem in the US, globally, the spread of synthetic drugs, particularly ATS substances, is growing as well. Not only are parts of Eastern Europe seeing heavy levels in ATS production and pre-cursor chemical traffic but locations in Africa are being slammed with the methamphetamine scourge. South Africa, for example, is rapidly moving closer to becoming the ATS capital of the African continent. Local sources in the country have reported on upticks in meth-lab seizures and ATS addiction rates. Relatively cheap to produce, hard to trace, easily manufactured with inconspicuous household chemicals and devastatingly addictive, the danger posed by the global ATS trade cannot be underestimated.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Even though Spain will begin testing a cocaine addiction vaccine in 2009, huge amounts of the coca-based stimulant continue to flow across the Atlantic, through Africa and up into Europe. While these trafficking patterns are far from new, continued reporting on the problems are necessary. Recent data indicates that not only does cocaine still pour across the Atlantic but criminal markets involving “cutting chemicals,” substances used cut and spread drug loads, are emerging as well. A recent article in the UK Telegraph highlighted some details regarding the trade, particularly in Senegal, a nation which has been picked to receive USG counter-narcotics assistance in the FY 2009 NDAA. The article touches on how West Africa could be slowly transforming from a stockpile warehouse to a greater distribution hub and how the discovery of crack-cocaine in parts of West Africa is an indication that cartels are starting to refine finished narcotic products on the continent. Again, the data provided in the article is not revolutionary but is worthy of refreshment. In a new report published by The Jamestown Foundation, the South American drug-trafficking terror group, Sendero Luminoso, (Shining Path), is revisited. While the group has fallen somewhat off the radar in the past several years, it has nevertheless continued to conduct attacks against Peruvian authorities...some have feared that based on an uptick in violence perpetrated in 2008, the strength of the group may be on the rise. Even though Shining Path is based and active in Peru, given the transnational links to organized crime, terror-cross-training, arms-trafficking and worldwide drug markets, Shining Path (or any former, affiliated members or splinter-groups), may become more actively globally. The article also touches on the fact that Shining Path may become a much more prominent force given the rising level of left-leaning governments taking control in South America. Like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Shining Path started as a leftist terror group and transformed into a militant-drug trafficking organization. The article also includes a multitude of recent incident data regarding what looks to be Shining Path’s resurging power and propensity for violence.

To view both articles, please access the following links.

- [Special Report: West Africa Welcomes Latin America’s Drug Barons](#)
- [Peru’s Sendero Luminoso: From Maoism to Narco-Terrorism](#)

Selected News for EUCOM

- [Tajik Police Make Large Drug Seizure](#)
- [Van Man had 210 Kilos of Drugs](#)
- [21 Arrested in Four Operations Against Designer Drugs](#)
- [Russia, Kazakhstan Agree to Strengthen Anti-Drug Efforts](#)
- [Spain to Test Vaccine to Treat Cocaine Addiction](#)

The Lighter Side

Quote of the Week

"Action is eloquence."

- ***William Shakespeare***

"The price of greatness is responsibility."

- ***Winston Churchill***

Prediction of the Week

After the shock of federal indictments sets in, we predict that IL Gov. Rod Blagojevich will come to his senses and resign his Governorship before a replacement for President-Elect Obama in the Senate. IL Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn - who, ironically, was on the "short-list" to replace Obama in the Senate - will become Governor of Illinois and select Obama's replacement.

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